

Remarks

Applicant initially thanks the Examiner for noting that claim 20 is allowed and claims 4-6, 9-11, 13-15, 17, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2 and 16 are objected to for the informalities noted on page 2 of the official action. Claim 2 has been cancelled and the limitations thereof incorporated into claim 1. Claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 15. Applicant regrets any inconvenience caused to the Examiner.


Claims 1-3, 7, 12, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Wilburn, U.S. Patent No. 3,310,002. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Wilburn in view of Kenney, U.S. Patent No. 6,734,026. In view of the above-amendments, applicant believes that the rejections are now moot.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 4, which is indicated to be allowable. Independent claim 12 has been amended to include the limitation of "an adjustable handle, wherein the distance between said handle and said pipe connector is adjustable". This newly added limitation is similar to the limitations recited in claims 17 and 9, both of which are indicated to be allowable.

In view of the above-amendments and remarks, applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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